

LEC

I always thought this passage *left out* with a great deal of judgment, by Tucca and Varius, as it seems to contradict a part in the sixth Æneid. Addison on Italy.

To LEAVE. *v. n.*
1. To cease; to desist.

She is my essence, and I leave to be,
If I be not by her fair influence
Foster'd, illumin'd, cherish'd, kept alive. Shakespeare.

And since this business so far fair is done,
Let us not leave till all our own be won. Shakesp. H. IV.

He began at the eldest, and left at the youngest. Genes.

2. To LEAVE off. To desist.

Gritus, hoping that they in the castle would not hold out,
left off to batter or undermine it, wherewith he perceived he
little prevail'd. Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.

But when you find that vigorous heat abate,
Leave off, and for another summons wait. Roscommon.

3. To LEAVE off. To stop.

Wrongs do not leave off there where they begin,
But still beget new mischiefs in their course. Daniel.

To LEAVE. *v. a.* [from *leave*; *lever*, French.] To levy; to
raise: a corrupt word, made, I believe, by Spenser, for a
rhyme.

An army strong the leave'd,
To war on those which him had of his realm bereav'd.
Spenser's Fairy Queen, b. ii.

LE'AVED. *adj.* [from *leave*, of *leaf*.]

1. Furnish'd with foliage.

2. Made with leaves or folds.

I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the
two leave'd gates. Isa. xlv. 1.

LE'AVEN. *n. f.* [from *levain*, French; *leaven*, Latin.]

1. Ferment mixed with any body to make it light; particularly
used of four dough mixed in a mass of bread.

It shall not be baken with leaven. Lev. vi. 17.

All fermented meats and drinks are easily digested; and
those unfermented, by barm or leaven, are hardly digested. Floyer.

2. Any mixture which makes a general change in the mass.

Many of their propositions favour very strong of the old
leaven of innovations. King Charles.

To LE'AVEN. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To ferment by something mixed.

You must tarry the leav'ning. Shakesp. Troil. and Cressida.

Whosoever eateth leaven'd bread, that soul shall be cut
off. Exod. xii. 17.

Breads we have of several grains, with divers kinds of
leavenings, and seasonings; so that some do extremely move
appetites. Bacon's Atlantis.

2. To taint; to imbue.

That cruel something unpollit,
Corrodes and leavens all the rest. Prior.

LE'AYER. *n. f.* [from *leave*.] One who deserts or forsakes.

Let the world rank me in register
A master-leaver, and a fugitive. Shakespeare.

LEAVES. *n. f.* The plural of leaf.

Parts fit for the nourishment of man in plants are, seeds,
roots, and fruits; for leaves they give no nourishment at all.
Bacon's Natural History.

LE'AVINGS. *n. f.* [from *leave*.] Remnant; relics; offal: it
has no singular.

My father has this morning call'd together,
To this poor hall, his little Roman senate,
The leavings of Pharsalia. Addison's Cato.

Then who can think we'll quit the place,
Or stop and light at Cloe's head, Swift.

With scraps and leavings to be fed. Swift.

LE'AVY. *adj.* [from *leaf*.] Full of leaves; covered with leaves.

Strephon, with leavy twigs of laurel tree,
A garland made on temples for to wear,
For he then chosen was the dignity
Of village lord that Whitfontide to bear. Sidney.

Now, near enough: your leavy ferrets throw down,
And show like those you are. Shakespeare's Macbeth.

To LECH. *v. a.* [from *lecher*, French.] To lick over.

Haft thou yet leched the Athenian's eyes
With the love juice. Shakesp. Midsummer Night's Dream.

LE'CHER. *n. f.* [Derived by Skinner from *luxure*, old French:
luxuria is used in the middle ages in the same sense.] A whore-
master.

I will now take the lecher; he's at my house; he cannot
'scape me. Shakesp. Merry Wives of Windsor.

You, like a lecher, out of whorish loins
Are pleas'd to breed out your inheritors. Shakespeare.

The lecher soon transforms his mistress; now
In lo's place appears a lovely cow. Dryden.

The sleepy lecher shuts his little eyes,
About his charming chaps the frothy bubbles rise. Dryden.

She yields her charms
To that fair lecher, the strong god of arms. Pope's Ody.

To LE'CHER. *v. n.* [from the noun.] To whore.

Die for adultery? no. The wren goes to't, and the small
gilded fly does lecher in my sight. Shakesp. King Lear.

LEE

Get cats all day, and lechers all the night. B. Johnson.

LE'CHEROUS. *adj.* [from *lecher*.] Leud; lustful.

The sapphire should grow foul, and lose its beauty, when
worn by one that is lecherous; the emerald should fly to
pieces, if it touch the skin of any unchaste person. Dryden.

LE'CHEROUSLY. *adv.* [from *lecherous*.] Leudly; lustfully.

LE'CHEROUSNESS. *n. f.* [from *lecherous*.] Leudness.

LE'CHERY. *n. f.* [from *lecher*.] Leudness; lust.

The rest welter with as little flame in open lechery, as
swine do in the common mire. Ascham's Scholesmaster.

Against such leudsters, and their lechery,
Those that betray them do no treachery. Shakespeare.

LE'CTION. *n. f.* [from *lectio*, Lat.] A reading; a variety in copies.

Every critic has his own hypothesis: if the common text
be not favourable to his opinion, a various lection shall be
made authentic. Watt's Legick.

LE'CTURE. *n. f.* [from *lecture*, French.]

1. A discourse pronounced upon any subject.

Mark him, while Dametas reads his ruffick lecture unto
him, how to feed his beasts before noon, and where to shade
them in the extreme heat. Sidney, b. ii.

When in music we have spent an hour,
Your lecture shall have leisure for as much. Shakesp.

When letters from Cesar were given to Rusticus, he re-
fused to open them till the philosopher had done his lec-
tures. Taylor's Holy Living.

Virtue is the solid good, which tutors should not only read
lectures and talk of, but the labour and art of education
should furnish the mind with, and fasten there. Locke.

Numidia will be blest by Cato's lectures. Addison's Cato.

2. The act or practice of reading; perusal.

In the lecture of holy scripture, their apprehensions are
commonly confined unto the literal sense of the text. Browne.

3. A magisterial reprimand.

To LE'CTURE. *v. a.* [from the noun.]

1. To instruct formally.

2. To instruct insolently and dogmatically.

LE'CTURER. *n. f.* [from *lecture*.] An instructor; a teacher by
way of lecture; a preacher in a church hired by the parish
to assist the rector or vicar.

If any minister refused to admit into his church a lecturer
recommended by them, and there was not one orthodox or
learned man recommended, he was presently required to at-
tend upon the committee. Clarendon.

LE'CTURESHIP. *n. f.* [from *lecture*.] The office of a lecturer.

He got a lectureship in town of sixty pounds a year, where
he preached constantly in person. Swift.

LED. *part. pret. of lead.*

Then shall they know that I am the Lord your God,
which caused them to be led into captivity among the hea-
then. Ezek. xxxix. 28.

The leaders of this people caused them to err, and they
that are led of them are destroyed. Isa. ix. 16.

As in vegetables and animals, so in most other bodies, not
propagated by seed, it is the colour we most fix on, and are
most led by. Locke.

LEDGE. *n. f.* [from *leggen*, Dutch, to lie.]

1. A row; layer; stratum.

The lowest ledge or row should be merely of stone, closely
laid, without mortar: a general caution for all parts in build-
ing contiguous to board. Watson's Architecture.

2. A ridge rising above the rest.

The four parallel sticks rising above five inches higher than
the handkerchief, served as ledges on each side. Gulliver.

3. Any prominence, or rising part.

Beneath a ledge of rocks his fleet he hides,
The bending brow above, a safe retreat provides. Dryden.

LEDHORSE. *n. f.* [from *led* and *horse*.] A sumpter horse.

LEE. *n. f.* [from *lie*, French.]

1. Dregs; sediment; refuse.

My cloaths, my sex, exchange'd for thee,
I'll mingle with the people's wretched lee. Prior.

2. [See term; supposed by Skinner from *leau*, French.] It is
generally that side which is opposite to the wind, as the lee
shore is that the wind blows on. To be under the lee of the
shore, is to be close under the weather shore. A leeward
ship is one that is not fast by a wind, to make her way so
good as she might. To lay a ship by the lee, is to bring her
so that all her sails may lie against the masts and shrouds flat,
and the wind to come right on her broadside, so that she will
make little or no way. Ditt.

If we, being form-beaten in the bay of Biscay, had had
a port under our lee, that we might have kept our transport-
ing ships with our men of war, we had taken the Indian
fleet, and the Azores. Raleigh's Apology.

The Hollanders were wont to ride before Dunkirk with
the wind at north west, making a lee shore in all weathers.
Raleigh's Essay.

Unprovided of tackling and victuallings, they are forced to
sea by a storm; yet better do so than venture splitting and
sinking on a lee shore. King Charles.

LEE

Him, haply slumbering on the Norway foam;
The pilot of some small night-founder'd skiff,
Deeming some island, oft, as seamen tell,
With fix'd anchor in his faly rind,
Moors by his side under the lee, while night
Invests the sea. Milton's Paradise Lost, b. i.

Batter'd by his lee they lay,
The passing winds through their torn canvass play. Dryden.

LEECH. *n. f.* [from *leech*, Saxon.]

1. A physician; a professor of the art of healing: whence we
still use cowlleech.

A leech, the which had great insight
In that disease of griev'd conscience,
And well could cure the same; his name was patience.
Spenser's Fairy Queen, b. i.

Her words prevail'd, and then the learned leech
His cunning hand 'gan to his wounds to lay,
And all things else the which his art did teach. Fa. Qu.

Physick is their bane.

The learned leeches in despair depart,
And shake their heads, depending of their art. Dryden.

Wife leeches will not vain receipts obtrude:
Deaf to complaints they wait upon the ill; Dryden.

Till some safe crisis.

The hoary wrinkled leech has watch'd and toil'd,
Tried every health restoring herb and gum,
And wearied out his painful skill in vain. Rowe's J. Shore.

A skilful leech.

They say, had wrought this blessed deed;
This leech Arbuthnot was yelet. Gay's Pastorals.

2. A kind of small water serpent, which fastens on animals,
and sucks the blood: it is used to draw blood where the lancet
is less safe, whence perhaps the name.

I drew blood by leeches behind his ear. Wifeman's Surg.

Sticking like leeches, till they burst with blood,
Without remorse insatiably. Roscommon.

To LEECH. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To treat with medica-
ments.

LEECHCRAFT. *n. f.* [from *leech* and *craft*.] The art of healing.

We study speech; but others we persuade:
We leechcraft learn; but others cure with it. Davies.

LEEF. *adj.* [from *lieve*, Dutch.] Kind; fond.

Whilome all these were low and leef,
And lov'd their flocks to feed;

They never strove to be the chief,
And simple was their weed. Spenser's Pastorals.

LEEK. *n. f.* [from *leac*, Saxon; *leek*, Dutch; *leek*, Erse.]

Its flower consists of six petals, and is shaped, as it were,
like a bell; in the center arises the point, which after-
ward becomes a roundish fruit, divided into three cells, which
contain roundish seeds: to these notes may be added, the fla-
mina are generally broad and flat, ending in three capilla-
ments, of which the middle one is furnished with a chive;
the flowers are also gathered into almost globular bunches:
the roots are long, cylindrical, and coated, the coats ending
in plain leaves. Miller.

Know'st thou Fiddlen? — Yes.

Tell him I'll knock his leek about his pate;
Upon St. David's day. Shakesp. Henry V.

Leek to the Welsh, to Dutchmen butter's dear. Gay.

We use acid plants inwardly and outwardly in gangrenes;
in the scurvy, water-crests, horse-radish, garlic, or leek
potage. Floyer on Humours.

LEER. *n. f.* [from *leere*, Saxon.]

1. An oblique view.

I spy entertainment in her; she gives the leer of invitation.
Shakesp. Merry Wives of Windsor.

Aside the devil turn'd
For envy, yet with jealous leer malign
Ey'd them askance. Milton's Par. Lost, b. iv.

2. A laboured cast of countenance.

Damn with faint praise, concede with civil leer. Pope.

I place a statesman full before my sight;
A bloated monster in all his geer;
With shameless visage, and perfidious leer. Swift.

To LEER. *v. n.* [from the noun.]

1. To look obliquely; to look archly.

I will leer upon him as he comes by; and do but mark
the countenance that he will give me. Shakesp. Henry IV.

I wonder whether you taste the pleasure of independency,
or whether you do not sometimes leer upon the court. Swift.

2. To look with a forced countenance.

Bertran has been taught the arts of courts,
To gild a face with smiles, and leer a man to ruin. Dryd.

LEES. *n. f.* [from *lees*, French.] Dregs; sediment: it has seldom a
singular.

This proceeded by reason of the old humour of those coun-
tries, where the memory of King Richard was so strong,
that it lay like lees in the bottom of mens hearts; and if the
vessel was but stirred, it would come up. Bacon's Henry VII.

If they love lees, and leave the luty wine,
Envy them not their palates with the wine. B. Johnson.

LEG

Those lees that trouble it refine
The agitated soul of generous wine. Dryden.

To LEESE. *v. a.* [from *leesen*, Dutch.] To lose: an old word.

Then fell to thy profit both butter and cheese, Tuffer.

Who buieth it sooner the more he shall leese.

No cause, nor client fat, will Chev'ril leese,
But as they come on both sides he takes fees;
And pleath both: for while he melts his greafe
For this, that wins for whom he holds his peace. B. Johnson.

How in the port our fleet dear time did leese,
Withering like prisoners, which lie but for fees. Donne.

LEET. *n. f.*

Leet, or leet, is otherwise called a law-day. The word
seemeth to have grown from the Saxon lethe, which was a
court of jurisdiction above the wapentake or hundred, com-
prehending three or four of them, otherwise called thirfl-
ing, and contained the third part of a province or shire:
these jurisdictions, one and other, be now abolished, and swal-
lowed up in the county court. Cowell.

Who has a breast so pure,
But some uncleanly apprehensions
Keep leets and law-days, and in sessions sit
With meditations lawful. Shakespeare's Othello.

You would present her at the leet,
Because she bought stone jugs, and no seal'd quarts. Shaks.

LE'WARD. *adj.* [from *leer* and *ward*, Saxon.]

1. Towards the wind. See LEE.

The classice were called long ships, the onerarie round,
because of their figure approaching towards circular: this
figure, though proper for the stowage of goods, was not the
fittest for sailing, because of the great quantity of leeward
way, except when they failed full before the wind. Arbuth.

Let no statesman dare,
A kingdom to a ship compare;
Left he should call our commonweal
A vessel with a double keel;
Which just like ours, new rigg'd and man'd,
And got about a league from land,
By change of wind to leeward slide,
The pilot knew not how to guide. Swift.

LE'FT. *participle preter. of leave.*

Alas, poor lady! desolate and left;
I weep myself to think upon thy words. Shakespeare.

Had such a river as this been left to itself, to have found
its way out from among the Alps, whatever windings it had
made, it must have formed several little seas. Addison.

Were I left to myself, I would rather aim at instructing
than diverting; but if we will be useful to the world, we
must take it as we find it. Addison's Spectator, N. 179.

LE'FT. *adj.* [from *left*, Dutch; *laevus*, Latin.] Sinistrous; not
right.

That there is also in men a natural prepotency in the right,
we cannot with constancy affirm, if we make observation
in children, who permitted the freedom of both hands, do oft-
times confine it unto the left, and are not without great diffi-
culty restrained from it. Brown's Vulgar Errors, b. iv.

The right to Pluto's golden palace guides,
The left to that unhappy region tends,
Which to the depth of Tartarus descends. Dryden's Æn.

The gods of greater nations dwell around,
And, on the right and left, the palace bound;
The commons where they can. Dryden.

A raven from a wither'd oak,
Left of their lodging was oblig'd to croak;
That omen lik'd him not. Dryden.

The left foot naked when they march to fight,
But in a bull's raw hide they sheathe the right. Dryden.

The man who struggles in the fight,
Fatigues left arm as well as right. Prior.

LE'FT-HANDED. *adj.* [from *left* and *hand*.] Using the left-hand
rather than right.

The limbs are used most on the right-side, whereby custom
helpeth; for we see, that some are left-handed, which are
such as have used the left-hand most. Bacon's Nat. Hist.

For the seat of the heart and liver on one side, whereby
men become left-handed, it happeneth too rarely to counte-
nance an effect so common: for the seat of the liver on the
left-side is very monstrous. Brown's Vulgar Errors.

LE'FT-HANDEDNESS. *n. f.* [from *left-handed*.] Habitual use of
the left-hand.

Although a squint left-handedness
B' ungracious; yet we cannot want that hand. Donne.

LEG. *n. f.* [from *leg*, Danish; *legur*, Icelandic.]

1. The limb by which we walk; particularly that part between
the knee and the foot.

They haste; and what their tardy feet deny'd,
The trusty staff, their better leg, supply'd. Dryden.

Purging comfits, and ants eggs,
Had almost brought him off his legs. Hudibras.

Such intrigues people cannot meet with, who have ro-
thing but leg, to carry them. Addison's Guardian.

2. An